April to September - inclusive 1948

The BLUE JAY

OFFICIAL BULLETIN
of the
YORKTON NATURAL HISTORY
SOCIETY

In Co-operation with
The Saskatchewan Provincial Museum

Volume 6, No. 3 and 4

THE BLUE JAY

With this issue "The Blue Jay", as the official organ of the Yorkton Natural History Society, will cease to exist. Those who have been responsible for its publication since the death of Mrs. Priestly, after much thought and serious consideration, have come to the conclusion that under the present set-up it would not be wise to continue.

Much credit is due to the Editor, Associate Editors and to the officers of the society, who have freely given so much of their time in order that each issue might bring something of worthwhile interest to nature lovers throughout the Province. Special mention must be made of the untiring efforts and splendid work accomplished by our Editor, Mr. Cliff Shaw. He has been keenly interested in the "Blue Jay" and it is due, in no small measure, to his personal enthusiasm that its publication has been made possible during the past two years.

With the assured assistance of Mr. Fred Bard, Director of the Provincial Museum, it is hoped that the publication of the "Blue Jay" will continue. The success of the venture will depend entirely on the active support given by the subscribers. We invite you to read the preface to the questionnaire on the last page of this issue then answer the questions and send your answers to the Provincial Museum by January 8, 1949.

"WHAT IS THE BLUE JAY"

The seeds from which the Yorkton Natural History Society had its beginnings probably had their origin in July, 1942. At that time, Mrs. Priestly, with the help of several Yorkton bird enthusiasts, prepared a short annotated list of birds entitled "A List of Birds Identified in the Yorkton District in Recent Years." This list received very favorable comment in the columns of A. G. Lawrence's "Chickadee Notes" in the Winnipeg Free Press, and the demand for it exceeded all expectations. Encouraged by this, and by the interest shown by a number of Yorkton people during the preparation of the list, it was decided to formally organize a small nature group. To make up for the absence of a bird column in any of the Saskatchewan daily newspapers, it was thought a few pages of mimeographed notes and observations might be distributed from time to time.

The organization meeting was held in the home of Dr. C. J. Houston on September 11, 1942, and it was decided to adopt the name of the Yorkton Natural History Society. Mrs. Priestly was elected President; J. R. Foreman, Vice-President; C. Stuart Houston, Secretary-treasurer, and Miss Ethel Lloyd, Mrs. E. Johnson, Vernon Barnes and Harvey Beck, Directors. It is interesting to note that the secretary and two of the directors were collegiate students. The executive decided to begin publication of a quarterly bulletin, the "Blue Jay". Circular letters, soliciting subscriptions to the new publication, were sent out to all those who had written for copies of the bird list. The first issue of the "Blue Jay" came out that same fall, 125 copies being mimeographed. Though this number was deemed to be more than ample, it was exhausted in very short order. For the first two years, the membership fee, including a subscription to the "Blue Jay", was only 25¢ per year. The bulletin was written and edited by Mrs. Priestly, mimeographed by Stuart Houston and finally made ready for mailing by a "Bee" of members who stapled it together, rolled and addressed it. In fact, a number of members were even persuaded to revert to childhood for the time-consuming task of coloring in, with blue crayons, the title letters on the front page.

Mrs. Priestly's friendly, informal style rapidly attracted a growing number of subscribers, while favorable comment concerning the scientific value of the information contained in the "Blue Jay" was received from leading ornithologists throughout Canada and the United States, and even the famous British Museum of Natural History requested a subscription. The late P. A. Taverner, author of "Birds of Canada", wrote that: "It is one of the meatiest things of the sort I have seen ----- There are many notes of interest worthy of the attention of naturalists."

In the fall of 1945, the secretary left Yorkton to begin his University studies, and Miss Ruth Beck took over his secretarial duties, while the Provincial Museum kindly offered to assist with the publishing of the "Blue Jay". It was intended at that time that Mrs. Priestly should move to Regina and carry on the editing of the "Blue Jay" from that point, in co-operation with the Provincial Museum. Such plans, however, came to an abrupt end with Mrs. Priestly's unexpected death on April 23, 1946.

Though they knew it would be next to impossible to maintain the high standard of quality set by Mrs. Priestly, the Y.N.H.S. determined to continue the publication of the "Blue Jay" as a tribute to Mrs. Priestly's memory. Cliff Shaw, although a very busy man, took on the heavy task of being both president of the Society and editor of the "Blue Jay." Miss Pauline Summers was elected secretary. However, the Society became progressively more handicapped as its keenest members, all former officers -- Miss Ethel Lloyd, Miss Gladys Fraser, J. R. Foreman, Jim Smith, Sgt. A. E. Smith, W. A. Brownlee, Jack Brownlee, Harvey Beck and Vernone Barnes -- left Yorkton.

Nevertheless, Mr. Shaw was fortunate in being able to secure the assistance of a capable group of assistant editors from other centers in the Province: Maurice G. Street of Nipawin, Wm. Fuller of Saskatoon, Lloyd O. Peterson of Indian Head, L. T. Carmichael of Regina, and Fred G. Bard, director of the Saskatchewan Provincial Museum. In this way, the publication of the "Blue Jay" has been carried on for the last two years.

By One of the Founders of the Society.

ISABEL M. PRIESTLY

Many subscribers to the "Blue Jay" did not have the privilege of knowing Mrs. Priestly to whom the magazine is now dedicated. For this reason, it was felt that this issue, would not be complete without some mention of her work.

Mrs. Priestly was the founder of the Yorkton Natural History Society, and also the originator of the "Blue Jay". From its inception until her death, she edited every issue, and wrote literally hundreds of letters each year in connection with its publication.

To those who knew and loved her, Mrs. Priestly's most outstanding characteristic was her joy in the world about her. She delighted in every aspect of nature, from the song of the robin to the shape of a snowflake. Children loved her, and were constantly bringing her everything from live bats to dead houseflies. No matter how simple their contribution, she always took time to discuss it with them, and many young people in Saskatchewan owe their interest in nature to Mrs. Priestly's enthusiasm. She was not only an outstanding naturalist, but was also a charming person.

At the time of her death, Mrs. Priestly was planning to move to Regina, and intended to take the "Blue Jay" with her, continuing its publication from there. Now, perhaps, if it is the sincere wish of all the subscribers of the "Blue Jay" a Provincial Organization will be formed, which will publish the "Blue Jay" from Regina. We cannot help but feel glad that Mrs. Priestly's plans are at last materializing. We hope the "Blue Jay" will continue to be dedicated to her, in memory of her important contribution to the study of natural history in Saskatchewan.

Ruth Beck.

PHENOLOGY

Have you ever considered why our native Grey Alder puts forth blossoms ahead of leaves or the reason behind the fact that Witch Hazel puts forth flowers while the snow still remains in the woods? These phenomena and countless others occurring in wild and cultivated plants form the basis of the intriguing study of phenology. Phenology is the science of the relationship of local climate to periodicity of living things such as leafing, blooming, seed ripening, etc.

There are increasing demands for information having to do with forest seed setting in various parts of Canada. We often hear of reports of success or failure of the apple crop in Eastern and Western Canada but how many people are conscious of the reproductive value of a good crop of seed from our most valuable tree species, the white spruce? White spruce has been known at times to break its own branches with its near half-ton load of seed-producing cones. At other times cones are scarcely visible.

The Saskatchewan Forest Service has been recording observations on the cone crops of forest trees as supplied by its field men for a number of years. The aim of this survey, is to discover the periodicity of favourable seed years for the profitable harvesting of nursery seed in periods of abundance. Systematic phenological observations tied with climate might point the way to improved forest management practices and will provide authentic information on one of the fundamental factors of the regeneration of a forest, that is, the production of seed.

Cone Crop Census in the Forest Region of Saskatchewan by Major Forest Districts.

	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
White Spruce (Picea canadensis)							
District							
Meadow Lake	3	1	2	1	2	1.3	2.8
Prince Albert	2.5	1	3	1	1	1.5	2.8
Hudson Bay	3	1	2	1	1.5	1.5	3.2
Average	2.8	1	2.3	1	1.5	1.4	2.9
Jack Pine (Pinus banksiana)							
Meadow Lake	3	1	3	1	2	1.6	2.5
Prince Albert	3	1	2	1	2	2.5	2.7
Hudson Bay	3	1	2	1	2	2.3	
Average	3	1	2.3	1	2	2.1	2.6

Key

0 - No crop
1 - Light crop
2 - Medium crop
3 - Heavy crop
4 - Very heavy crop

Note

Statistics compiled from seed reports of 60 co-operatives in widely scattered sections of the forest belt.

The table reproduced above is a tentative study for white spruce (Picea canadensis)and Jack pine (Pinus banksiana) in the matter of seed production. It indicates a medium to heavy crop every alternate year since 1942 including the present year 1948. A series of consistent annual seed surveys may indicate a definite two year cycle and perhaps also a longer cycle in which bumper crops are produced.

Such a variation is known to exist from district to district in other parts of Canada and a further detailed and comprehensive study may bring this interesting angle into focus. Even the origin of tree seed in climatic regions affects the survival of the resulting transplants in forest nurseries according to their geographic position. This would indicate that some seeds are not climatically adaptable to strange sites. For this reason in Norway, seed origin and quality is examined very carefully and the highest quality seed-producing regions are early discovered and earmarked as reliable sources of supply for forest nurseries whose ultimate purpose is the growing of trees for timber.

The introduction of phenological calendars should form a part of the program of every natural history society. If you are interested in the subject I will describe what a phenological chart deals with and how it can be put to local use for the study of plants.

R. F. Arnold, Prince Albert.

ASH BORER, PODOSESIA FRAXINI LUG

Importance of Pest and Recognition of Damage

The ash borer is known to attack green ash, white ash, and mountain ash, but in the Prairie Provinces has been found only in green ash. During the current season infestations reported to the Indian Head Laboratory were more numerous than in past years. These occurred at Pennant, Swift Current, Moose Jaw, Regina, Radville, Estevan, Strasbourg, and Saskatoon, Sask. Several of them were very severe.

The visible signs of ash borer injury are holes or burrows openings in the bark. These vary from one-eighth to one-quarter inches or more in diameter. Such openings may occur singly if infestations are new, or if small trees are affected, but in older infestations in larger trees they are usually grouped together and are often associated with dead sunken areas on the trunks. In addition to the exposed burrow openings, thickened bands almost encircling the stem may be present on the smaller trees and on some of the branches of the larger trees. These bands usually occur at the base of a branch or twig and are scar tissue which has overgrown horizontal surface burrows made by young borers which have failed to survive. Any part of the bole or limbs of a tree may be attacked by the ash borer, but the base of the trunk and the portion just below the canopy, especially

if the lower branches have been removed by pruning, are most seriously affected. Widely spaced trees are more subject to attack than closely spaced trees. This characteristic has made the ash borer more important in city and town plantings than in closely-spaced farm shelterbelts.

Appearance of Stages

The ash borer is a lepidopterous insect and passes through the usual adult, egg, larval, and pupal stages of development. The adult stage is a narrow-bodied, narrow-winged clearwing moth with a wing expanse of approximately one and one-quarter inches. The body is dark brown or almost black with narrow yellowish bands around the abdominal segments. The legs are long, and when resting the adult is wasp-like in appearance.

The eggs are ellypsoid in shape and viewed under magnification are deeply sculptured in a reticulate pattern with the longitudinal ridges much heavier and more continuous than the cross ridges. The ridges are grey in colour and the areas between them black. One end of the egg is indented and the upper surface somewhat depressed. The long axis of measured eggs varied from .79 to .86 mm. and the short axis from .45 to .63 mm.

When newly hatched, the larvae or borers are extremely small and have a reddish-brown head. The presence of three pairs of thoracic legs and five of abdominal legs distinguish these borers from the legless beetle borers.

The ash borer pupa is dark brown and capable of considerable movement.

History and Habits

Adults of the ash borer are present during most of June and July. Wounds on the trunk and branches, and roughened areas on the bark such as occur around the base of the branches are favoured oviposition sites. In consequence, bruises to lower parts of the trunk resulting during cultivation, wounds caused by pruning, or damge from hail and snow encourage infestation. Old burrow openings also encourage re-infestation. The eggs are not inserted into the bark or wood, but are attached to the surface.

The young borers are first present during July. Upon emerging from the eggs they bore directly into the bark or wood in most instances. Where oviposition has taken place in old ash borer burrows, however, the newly-hatched larvae often crawl along the old burrows for short distances before starting their own burrows. Usually in the course of feeding each burrow is widened just inside its entry to form a "feeding chamber" in the outer sapwood of the tree. From this "feeding chamber" the burrow is extended upward into the sapwood at an angle of approximately 45 degrees. In large trees this burrow penetrates the sapwood only an inch or two and then turns sharply outward to the outer sapwood, terminating just under the bark an inch or more above the original entry and from one to two inches to right or left of it. In small trees, or where a branch is entered, the burrow penetrates to its centre, then may rise several inchesalong it before turning again to the outside to terminate in the outer sapwood just under the bark. In small trees also, burrows often pass through the stems so that they terminate near the bark on the side opposite the entry. When the outer sapwood is reached the terminal end of the burrow is enlarged somewhat to form a second chamber within which

the larva overwinters. By October the larvae have completed this stage of activity. The following spring larval development and feeding are resumed and before pupation occurs a hole is cut through the thin layer of sapwood and the bark to provide an exit opening for the adult.

The pupal stage is short. Just prior to the emergence of the adult, the pupa manoeuvers itself into the exit opening cut by the larva, in such a way that the emerging adult escapes directly to the outside leaving the pupal cast projecting two-thirds of its length out of the opening. Emergence of the adults begins in early June and continues until mid-July or later.

CONTROL

Ridding infested trees of the ash borer is difficult. As far as possible, therefore, infestation should be prevented. To help achieve this, wounding of the trees should be avoided. Whenever wounds occur either by accident or by pruning the branches, the injuries should be painted over so as to make them unattractive as egg deposition sites.

Once infestation has occurred, direct control measures are necessary. Trees with many borers in them and in consequence severely damaged should be cut out and the infested portions burned. This should be done before the middle of May to prevent emergence of the adult moths and danger of infestation to other trees. (Avoid cutting out and destroying trees showing only old injury and from which infestation has been eliminated by natural means). Less severely infested trees should be treated to destroy the borers in them. In many instances this can be done by digging the borers out and then coating the exposed wood with a paint. Injection of carbon tetrachloride, carbon disulphide, or cyanide paste into the open burrows during late fall and early spring, is also effective.

For carbon tetrachloride or carbon disulphide, a machinist oil can will serve to introduce the poison into the burrows. A spoonful of the liquid injected into each opening should be adequate. Following the treatment the burrow opening should be closed with putty or wet clay to confine the gases formed. This treatment, if undertaken in the spring is most effective if the infested trees are revisited at intervals or two or three days during late May and June to treat and close all new untreated openings. (Carbon tetrachloride and carbon disulphide should be handled with care. Both are poisonous to humans a and carbon disulphide is very inflammable.)

Cyanide paste, prepared by stirring powdered calcium cyanide into linseed oil to form a paste, can be pressed into the burrow openings with a putty knife, or injected into them with a grease gun. (Calcium cyanide is very poisonous and extreme care must be taken in preparing the paste and also in applying the treatment to the trees. Avoid breathing any of the fumes and getting the material on the hands or face. Trees visited by children should not be treated with this material.

D.D.T. and benzene hexachloride have not been tested against this pest, but there is reason to believe that these materials would be effective. If used as dusts these materials should be blown forcibly into the burrows with a plunger-type dust gun, having a reduced nozzle which can be inserted into the burrow openings. Sprays should be applied similarily using a small hand sprayer. As D. D. T. and benzene hexachloride are contact poisons, it is important that the dusts and sprays be injected as far into the burrows as possible.

L.O.T. Peterson, Dom. Ent. Lab.,
Indian Head, Saskatchewan.

BOTANY

REGINA

The weekend of June 11-14 the museum went north on a photographic trip for the Department of Natural Resources. With them went Dr. G. F. Ledingham, Regina College Biologist and President of the Regina Natural History Society. During the trip he collected and pressed about one hundred plants. The main stops were at Beaver Creek, about twenty miles south of Saskatoon, and along the creek north of Shell lake, which is about forty miles west of Prince Albert. The Department of Natural Resources and the Fish Board again provided transportation for Dr. Ledingham from June 25 to July 1st and 220 plants were collected. The main stops on this trip, which was mostly made by air, were Prince Albert, Lac La Ronge, Wollaston Post, Tate Island in Reindeer Lake and Amisk Lake (15 miles east of Flin Flon). Many interesting plants were seen. Outstanding amongst these were the Calla Lily, the Pale Laurel and the Bog Rosemary. The collections have not been studied in detail as yet. They do not include many trees or shrubs but are quite representative for other families, especially for the Sedge Family.

The aim of these collections in 1948 was to fill out the collections already in the museum herbarium. The first given to the Museum by Wm. Shevkenek, contains about 200 sheets. These plants were collected mostly between Indian Head, Regina and the Big Muddy. The main collection of 600 plants was donated by the Swift Current Experimental Station. The Museum hopes to obtain a complete set of Saskatchewan plants for the use of serious minded students interested in Botany. Persons in favorable locations can collect plants of interest to help fill out this Saskatchewan collection. Those who know how to handle herbarium sheets may examine the collection at any time.

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TORCH RIVER C. Stuart Francis

Three years ago he dug up a pure yellow Tiger Lily and planted it in his garden. It is a healthy plant now and came out into full bloom this summer.

He is interested, also, in a white variety of Fireweed, two plants of which were noted this summer about a mile and a half apart. One patch was in the open and the other in dense forest.

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GRENFELL, Mrs. Bilsbury

The Prairie Lilies were poor this year. Whether mice damaged them or frost I do not know. My yellow ones came up and had two blooms. Yellow Lady's Slippers are making a comeback and were fairly plentiful this spring. Crowfoot violets are dying out. New plants have made their appearance too. Goat's beard and Bladderwort are two new comers. Another flower, a yellow one with sticky blossoms came up in the yard. The name is unknown to me. (Probably Gumweed--Ed.)

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YORKTON

Mr. Cliff Shaw was fortunate in finding a specimen of Indian Pipe (Monotropa uniflora) just coming into bloom July 1. Dr. R. C. Russell, University of Sask., informs us that this plant has previously only been

reported from Emma Lake, Waskesiu, and the Big River area. The plant is a saprophyte, distinguished by its white or pink stem and pipe-like head. It has white scales along the stem in place of leaves. The root is densely matted.

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BULYEA

Calvin Abrahamson, a Grade XII student now attending Normal School at Moose Jaw, has a clump of double crocuses growing in his garden. Some of the interesting blossoms were exhibited on the head table at the annual banquet of the Regina Natural History Society. It is hoped that Calvin will be able to propagate this plant successfully.

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WILDLIFE

PUNNICHY, Mrs. Madeline B. Runyan

Coyotes are reported to be on the increase. Good Friday morning a deer took refuge in the barnyard, while the coyote stood by. It was later driven off with a .22 rifle.

Golden eagle, mature, seen September 1st: Bald Eagle, immature, wintered within a radius of five miles.

A cairn is suggested to mark the site of the first Hudson Bay post in the Touchwood Hills. Until a few years ago the stone chimney stood. This spot is 5 miles from the Runyan farm.

TORCH RIVER, C. Stuart Francis

Red Squirrel--On July 10th a neighbor observed a Red Squirrel carrying a young robin; coming to a bare part of the spruce it dropped the robin which fell 25 ft. to the ground. The squirrel quickly retrieved the bitd and proceeded to eat it. It ate the flesh clear down to the breast bone. The scolding of 10 or a dozen old robins didn't have any effect on the squirrel.

Catbirds--Nested in the yard for the first time, they have not nested in the area before. We how have 5 Canada Geese we raised, 2 young this summer.

Timber Wolves--Numerous here, they range from grey to black, 5 have been shot in the neighborhood. Here in township 54 the weather has been very dry, crops fair, alfalfa seed crop very good, garden crop fair to good.

GRENFELL, Mrs. Bilsbury

The heavy run off filled the sloughs, resulting in a better show of ducks and coots. Four pairs of Ruddy ducks became very tame--5 pairs of Eared Grebes nested in sloughs on the farm. 5 Hungarian partridge wintering, 2 survived, now there are 9. Several flocks prairie chicken (Sharp-tails). About 2 females with young seen. We came upon a female prairie chicken sitting on her nest, and it allowed Miss Dearlove to put her hand beneath it and count the eggs. Ruffed grouse are decreasing. With more water we have

an increase in song and wading birds. Swainson hawks are increasing. Gophers are scarce, chipmunks only 2 seen, Frogs increasing, toads very scarce, muskrats increasing.

OKLA, Ross Roach

Reports a weasel working from the barn to the wood pile carrying feathers and nest material to establish a home in the wood pile. Now it is quite tame and comes within 3 feet to observe me.

WOOD RIVER

East and south of Lake Johnston, 13 painted turtles were found in a shallow pool in the wood river on October 29th. Several were taken as pets and others transferred to deeper pools in the river.

SHARP-TAILED GROUSE

While travelling from Raymore to Dafoe on July 15th Mr. Alex Gee of Regina saw a weasel spring about 20 inches to the back of the bird already in flight. The weasel evidently did not secure the desired hold and at roughly 10 ft. in height the weasel fell off.

ALBINO CROW --

In July Mr. Clarence Schaefer of Kitchener, Ontario, shot an Albino crow. The bird is being prepared by Miss E. Barker, Regina, Taxidermist.

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PRAIRIE CHICKEN " DANCING GROUNDS"

We are particularly interested in hearing of remaining grouse dancing grounds. These grounds are effected mainly through agricultural demands. Such sites are unusual and interesting enough to conserve for observation and study purposes. Information required is the land owner's name, location and dancing population.

BOOKS

"Guide to Game Birds", illustrated by Edmund J. Sawyer. This 4" x6" 42-page pocket guide sells for 50¢ and is distributed to Kee-Men, of Ducks Unlimited Canada.

"Saskatchewan Digest", 5½" x 8¼", 40-page booklet and carries informatio ation of occurrences in Saskatchewan, its general development and progress. This booklet sells for $1.00 per year and is available from the Roll Call Publications Limited, Dominion Bank Building, Regina, Sask.

SASKATCHEWAN HISTORIC SITES

Through the "Blue Jay" we invite correspondence from members in every part of the province about Saskatchewan Historic Sites. While not a phase of Natural History, this subject is of real interest to everyone who loves the great outdoors. Early historic events are fading memories and

unless recorded now will be lost forever. Some of you may know where a trading post once stood, a settlement, or perhaps a place where an Indian tribe established their winter camp each year. These subjects with many others of their kind go to make up early Saskatchewan History.

We would also like to hear your ideas for permanently marking Saskatchewan Historic Sites. Some Provinces and many States in the U.S.A. have gone a long way in erecting Cairns and Highway Markers at spots of historic interest. Only a meagre start has been made along this line in Saskatchewan.

It has been done in other provinces; they found to know your country better meant to love it more. The marking of Sites which contributed to Provincial History leads to more study and a better understanding of the events which placed us where we are today. Such marking makes our Province more interesting to ourselves, as well as to visitors, and need not be confined to Historic Sites alone. Pre-History might be observed, such as Indian Battles. Geological oddities might be marked too, like the sinking hill south of Swift Current or Rock formations of Roche Percee. "Blue Jay" readers are invited to comment on the above suggestions.

An Archaeologist

SEVENTH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

For the seventh consecutive year, we shall again be taking our annual Christmas Bird Count, and hope that all who have taken part in the past will again be out in force, as well as our new members. These winter counts have resulted in some very interesting data concerning our winter bird life.

The count is made on any one day between December 20 and January 3, but preferably between Christmas and New Years inclusive. Every species of bird seen should be recorded as well as the total number of each species. Notes should also be made as to weather, wind, temperature, depth of snow, number of miles travelled and the time the observer(s) spent afield. Food conditions, such as the abundance or scarcity of hanging dried fruit, maple seeds, weed seeds, etc., should be recorded.

The previous six counts have resulted in 58 species (or sub-species recognizable in the field) being recorded in Saskatchewan during the Christmas season.

IS THE BLUE JAY TO CONTINUE?!!

A group of us, living in Regina, who have missed the "Blue Jay" since March 1948 feel that we would like to do something to keep this bulletin alive. Our inquiry into the cause of its failure has led us to conclude that the trouble is not financial for the Museum has been donating all printing costs in an effort to encourage the "Blue Jay". Nor do we think the trouble lies in the hard-working Yorkton executive and editor. The trouble lies in ourselves. The members are directly responsible, there is nothing to publish. When on October 31, the Yorkton Natural History Society executive sent in all the material they had received since March, we found only half a dozen letters. This means that less than 3% of the membership contributed during a seven month period. During this period the "Blue Jay" has missed two issues. We

We must do much better if the Blue Jay is to continue.

The "Blue Jay" has not moved to Regina, but if enough people in Saskatchewan are keenly enough interested in natural history and promise to send in their notes then we will appoint an editor and a small executive to publish the "Blue Jay". Send in your observations and in exchange receive notes of your fellow-readers covering Saskatchewan. The future of the "Blue Jay" depends on your answers to the following questionnaire. Anyone sincerely interested in nature may answer the same questions by letter, if the questionnaire is not available to them. How interested are YOU?